GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5404
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003
HIMALAYAN TAHRS
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the `Himalayan Tahrs` an endangered specie in the Western Himalayas are on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, whether some of these animals which were transported to South Africa, have bred and proliferated there and being exotic species the South African authorities have decided to exterminate them;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to save this endangered specie from extermination and killing; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government indicating the plan of action for transporting these animals back to Indian habitat?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) The Himalayan Tahr is an endangered species in India. It is listed in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 and is thereby provided highest degree of protection under law to prevent its extinction. The species is surviving in its natural habitat.

(b), (c) & (d) Himalayan Tahr is not indigenous to South Africa. Being exotic species to South Africa, the local authorities decided to cull (killing for conservation management purpose) the population of this species. The Government of India had requested for firm commitment from the Government of South Africa to allow the capture of the Himalayan Tahr and provide logistic and technical support in capturing these animals. However, the same has not been received till date.